

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A pickup device for a dielectric recording/reproducing apparatus using a dielectric material as a recording medium, comprising:
a first electrode for applying an electric field to the dielectric material;
an electrode holding member for holding the said first electrode;
an arm portion equipped with the said electrode holding member, wherein the electrode holding member comprises a conductive member and is mounted on one end of the arm portion via an insulating member;
a rotating mechanism for rotating the said arm portion; and
a second electrode for returning a high-frequency electric field applied from the first electrode to the dielectric material of the recording medium, the second electrode being placed on a surface of the insulating member facing the recording medium.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The pickup device according to claim 1, wherein the said electrode holding member has a gimbal structure.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The pickup device according to claim 1, wherein the said electrode holding member and the said first electrode are formed in one piece.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A The pickup device for a dielectric recording/reproducing apparatus using a dielectric material as a recording medium according to claim 1, comprising:

a first electrode for applying an electric field to the dielectric material;
an electrode holding member for holding the first electrode;
an arm portion equipped with the electrode holding member;
a rotating mechanism for rotating the arm portion; and
a second electrode for returning a high-frequency electric field applied from the first electrode to the dielectric material of the recording medium, the second electrode being placed around the electrode holding member.

wherein the said electrode holding member comprises an insulating member.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The pickup device according to claim 6 [[7]], wherein one end of the said arm portion is used as the said second electrode.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The pickup device according to claim 6, wherein a plurality of the said first electrodes are disposed on the said electrode holding member.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A The pickup device for a dielectric recording/reproducing apparatus using a dielectric material as a recording medium according to claim 1, comprising:

a first electrode for applying an electric field to the dielectric material;
an electrode holding member for holding the first electrode;
an arm portion equipped with the electrode holding member;
a rotating mechanism for rotating the arm portion;
an inductor which forms a resonance circuit with a capacitance of the dielectric material of the recording medium just under the said first electrode; and
an oscillator which oscillates at a resonance frequency of the resonance circuit,

wherein the inductor and the oscillator are placed in the vicinity of the said first electrode.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A The pickup device for a dielectric recording/reproducing apparatus using a dielectric material as a recording medium, according to claim 1 further comprising:

a first electrode for applying an electric field to the dielectric material;

an electrode holding member for holding the first electrode;

an arm portion equipped with the electrode holding member;

a rotating mechanism for rotating the arm portion; and

an oscillator, wherein the first electrode is placed at one end of the arm portion, the oscillator is placed at another end of the arm portion, and a rotating shaft of the said rotating mechanism is located between the first electrode and the oscillator.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A The pickup device for a dielectric recording/reproducing apparatus using a dielectric material as a recording medium, according to claim 1 further comprising:

a first electrode for applying an electric field to the dielectric material;

an electrode holding member for holding the first electrode;

an arm portion equipped with the electrode holding member;

a rotating mechanism for rotating the arm portion; and

a weight, wherein the first electrode is placed at one end of the arm portion, the weight is placed at another end of the arm portion, and a rotating shaft of the said rotating mechanism is located between the first electrode and the weight.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The pickup device according to claim 1, wherein the said rotation mechanism is a motor of rotational type.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The pickup device according to claim 1, wherein the said rotation mechanism is a motor of linear movement type.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A The pickup device for a dielectric recording/reproducing apparatus using a dielectric material as a recording medium according to claim 1, comprising:

a first electrode for applying an electric field to the dielectric material;

an electrode holding member for holding the first electrode;

an arm portion equipped with the electrode holding member; and

a rotating mechanism for rotating the arm portion;

wherein said electric holding member has a sloping surface sloping with respect to a surface parallel to a surface of the recording medium, the sloping surface is located at a portion facing a moving direction of the recording medium.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The pickup device according to claim 1, comprising a device for reproducing information recorded as polarization directions of ~~in~~ the dielectric material of the recording medium using on the basis of ~~a~~ scanning nonlinear dielectric microscopy ~~method~~.